

Indiana Dunes State Park

1600 N. 25 E.

Chesterton, Indiana 46304

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September Nature Center Hours: 9:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. CDT Daily
stateparks.in.gov

All programs are free (unless otherwise noted) and open to the public after paying the park entrance fee. Our interpretive programs are designed to entertain and enrich folks of all ages.

Friday, August 31

3pm Snakes Alive! Slither to the Nature Center for a fun look at the snakes of the dunes. We'll explore some of the myths that surround them as well. Good program, especially if you're uncomfortable around these reptiles. Join us! BB

8:30pm Sidewalk Stargazing! Join us outside the Beach Pavilion for an hour of stargazing fun. We'll be set up by the beach for a chance at some deep sky viewing through our giant telescope. Check out far galaxies, nebulae, and other fun space objects this evening. BB



Saturday, September 1

10am Dune Climbing! Join a naturalist at the Nature Center for this 1-hour rugged hike to the top of one of the park's high dunes! BH

3pm High Tech Scavenger Hunt! Join us for a scavenger hunt with a techno-twist! Meet at the Nature Center and learn about the new hobby of geocaching, and try your hand at finding one for yourself. Prizes for the kids! Join us! JR

7:30pm Candlelight History Tour. Join us for a special candlelight saunter into the growing darkness. We'll explore the fascinating history stories that have captivated generations. Children under 12 must have a parent. Meet at the Campground Gate. No flashlights needed! JR

Sunday, September 2

8:30am Informal Church Service at the Campground Shelter.

10am Fall Birding! Meet members of the Indiana Audubon Society for a morning of early fall birding. We'll start at the Nature Center and search out the early migrating warblers and vireos. We'll be out for an hour or a little more.

1-4pm An Afternoon for the Birds! Join us as we team up with the Indiana Audubon's Youth Birding Club to offer an afternoon of birding fun. We'll be offering special bird activities, bird crafts, special movies, and even live bird banding for kids of all ages to enjoy. Check the Nature Center for the full list and agenda of activities going on!

7:30pm Who Goes There! Join us for a special hike into the twilight! We'll be searching for the owls, flying squirrels, and other nighttime animals that call the dunes home. Meet in the Nature Center Parking Lot. Children under 12 must bring a parent. BB



Hoosier Quest Pin Program!

Visit the Nature Center to find out how you and your family can earn pins in the Indiana State Parks this fall! See a Naturalist to learn more!

Monday, September 3

Happy Labor Day!

10am Feed the Birds. Join the naturalist outside the Nature Center for the daily feeding of our birds. Get great close up views of chickadees, cardinals, and woodpeckers! Great fun for the kids. BH

3pm Labor Day Crafts It's a make it, take it program! Meet the naturalist at the Nature Center for a special nature project to remember your Labor Day visit to Indiana Dunes State Park. Bring the kids before you pack up and head home! BH

Friday September 7

6:30pm Pavilion Sunset History Tour! Meet the park interpreter for a view of Indiana's best sunset! We'll meet in front of the beach pavilion for a look at this unique Indiana icon, a special tour, and then we'll head to the top for a great sunset! It's a great way to kick off our History Weekend! BB

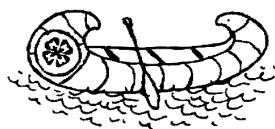
Saturday September 8

History Comes Alive Weekend!

Join us for special activities all weekend!

9am-8pm Fur Trader Encampment.

Be sure to visit the Ouiatenon Brigade on the beach east of the pavilion as they re-enact the early French fur traders of the area.



10am A Voyageur's Hike! Meet the naturalist at the Campground Shelter for a trek through the dunes, and a meeting with the early French fur traders that inhabited this area nearly 200 years ago! Bring your beaver pelt, or borrow one of ours! BH

11am-7pm State Parks on the Air! On this day, the Lake County Amateur Radio Club of NW Indiana will be activating The Indiana Dunes State Park in a state wide on the air contest that will also exhibit ham radio at the park's Tremont Shelter. The activity will consist of ham radio stations making contacts with other Indiana and Ohio state parks. Members will be on hand to explain the operation as well as introduce the public to the exciting adventures that can be found in modern day ham radio communications. Come on out and learn more!

2pm The Prairie Club Revisited. Join the park naturalist to the Beach House Blowout and back this afternoon. We'll traverse amazing dune parabolic blowouts, forested dunes, and foredune grasslands as we explore this aspect of our park history. Meet at the Nature Center. Total time just over one hour. BH

Saturday September 8 (Cont'd)

3pm Artists of the Dunes. Did you know Chicago was the old movie making capital of the world? Come visit the Nature Center this afternoon to learn how the nearby dunes have been used to inspire movies, artwork, poems and more. JR

6:30pm Native American Flute Music! Finish off a great day in the park with this special performance by Mike Mycroft. Mike's flute work is inspired by the resilient natural areas of places like the dunes. Bring a lawnchair or blanket to lie on and meet in front of the Beach Pavilion. Total program time, about 1 hour.

Sunday September 9

9am-1pm Fur Trader Encampment. Be sure to visit the Ouiatenon Brigade on the beach east of the beach pavilion as they re-enact the fur-trading era.

10am Dunes History Hike! Meet the naturalist at the Campground Shelter for a trek through the dunes, and a meeting with the early French fur traders that inhabited this area nearly 200 years ago! BH

2pm A Hike Through 50 Years! Join special guest Jim Ton as he highlights a period of change in the park's history. Jim was a former park employee many decades ago and has an intimate knowledge of the park. This special hike will meet at the Beach Pavilion and travel into the nearby foredunes. Moderate dune climbing expected. JR

Friday September 14

7pm Goodnight Dunes. Kids, meet at the Campground Shelter (by site 116) for a special story hour. We'll read nature-themed books including, "A Camping Spree with Mr. Magee" and "How to be a Nature Detective." JR

Saturday September 15

10am Early Fall Colors. Check out the early fall colors this morning on this easy stroll from the Nature Center. We'll explore the different colors being produced now, and the conditions that will bring the blaze of color in a few weeks. BB

2pm Indiana's Greatest Hike! Join the park naturalist for a grand tour to what was voted the greatest hike in Indiana by USA Today. We'll traverse amazing dune parabolic blowouts, forested dunes, and foredune grasslands along the way. Pack a water bottle, strap on your hiking boots, and join us at the Nature Center this afternoon! BH

Sunday September 16

10am Cactus Crawl! Lace up the hiking boots and join us for a search of our now fruiting prickly pear cactus. Meet at the Beach Pavilion for this 1 hour hike. BH

2pm Snakes Alive! Slither to the Nature Center for a fun look at the snakes of the dunes. We'll explore some of the myths that surround them as well. Good program, especially if you're uncomfortable around these reptiles. Join us! BH

Saturday September 22

10am-3pm Friends of Indiana Dunes 30th Anniversary Party! It's a day of fun planned at the Wilson Shelter today! The public is welcome to join in the fun as our own Friends of Indiana Dunes celebrates 30 years as a non-profit organization! Games, prizes, food, live music, hayrides, and more will welcome kids of all ages! Watch for more details as the date approaches.

Sunday September 23

10am A Dam Good Hike. What's new with our local beavers!? Join us at the Campground Gate for an hour stroll to check out the some of the local signs that they are around. Prepare for possible off-trail hiking. Join us for a great time! BH

2pm Turtle Time! Scoot on over to the Nature Center for a fun and fascinating look at the terrapins of the dunes! Learn how they survive in this great park. Great kid's program! JR

Saturday September 29

10am Habitats, Holes, and Hideaways. Let's go exploring the homes and hideaways of our local dune critters! Meet outside the Nature Center for this 45-minute exploratory hike. JR

2pm High-tech Scavenger Hunt. Using new technology, we'll introduce you to the world of GPS use and geocaching. Bring the kids, as we'll have prizes for those that play along! Meet at the Nature Center. JR

Sunday September 30

10am Feed the Birds. Join the Naturalist outside the Nature Center for the daily feeding of our birds. Get great close up views of chickadees, cardinals, and woodpeckers! Great fun for the kids. JR

2pm Just a Few Furs! Find out more about the Indiana Dunes mammals and how they're preparing for the upcoming fall in this 45-minute program at the Nature Center. JR



Find These Programs and others at Indiana State Parks and Reservoirs On-line at www.interpretiveservices.in.gov

Make a campsite or shelter reservation at 1-866-622-6746 or on-line at www.CAMP.IN.gov

Visit the Dunes on Government 2.0
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